



Communicator

CQ WW DX Contest

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November 2011

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QRM

ve7sar.net



The Monthly Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club



The Communicator



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.

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October Meeting Minutes Susan Eshelman VE7IIE—SARC Secretary

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. October 12, 2011, by President John Brodie VA7XB.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

John VA7XB welcomed guests and an attendance list was circulated.

HAM CLASS

Gary Skett VE7AS reported that the new Ham class is going very well, and recognized several new SARC members from the class who were in attendance at their first club meeting. The meeting space is working well.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Gary VE7AS gave a brief report on the planning progress for upcoming SARC technical presentations. A questionnaire has been published on the SARC website - www.ve7sar.net - and all members are encouraged to complete and submit one. The questionnaire, designed by Webmaster Hui Yee VE7YXG, is functioning efficiently and allows Gary to get the completed questionnaires by email as soon as they're submitted.

SEPAR REPORT

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH gave an update

on SEPAR activities, including an upcoming province-wide ShakeOut earthquake drill being held on October 20th. Anyone interested in SEPARS membership can contact Kelvin for information. He emphasized the importance of SEPAR support services, noting the recent F2 satellite outage that took all North American communications north of 60° out for over eight hours, including air traffic and emergency paging in a hospital zone. During events like this, Amateur Radio and organizations like SEPAR become mission critical supports for the local community.

LOTTERY GRANT

John VA7XB gave an update on the Lottery Grant, noting that most of last year's grant funds have been expended, with the remainder earmarked for installation of the new Repeater. The City/Concord lease agreement is getting close.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Scott Hawrelak VE7CNR provided a financial report. He has now broken out Swap Meet expenses, as requested. Scott is holding name

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Gipps VE7XS

SECRETARY

Susan Eshelman VE7IIE

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH
(SEPARS)

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor)

Gary Skett VE7AS
(Education/Training)

George Merchant
VE7QH (Repeaters)

Bill Little VA7ZBL
(Membership)

Chris Zetner VA7CMZ

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, (optional Tone Squelch 110.9) also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echo-link node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

| | SEPARS Net | SARC Net |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st Tuesday | Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby | Drew VA7DRW |
| 2 nd Tuesday | Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby | Alan VA7BIT |
| 3 rd Tuesday | Rob VE7CZV | John VA7XB |
| 4 th Tuesday | Bill VE7XS Dixie VA7DIX Standby | Anton VE7SSD |
| 5 th Tuesday | Jinty VA7JMK | Bill VE7XS |
| Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the Net Manager ve7ti@separs.net | | |

badges for several members, and email reminders will go out to them. New members wishing to get a name badge should contact John VA7XB.

CLUBHOUSE

John VA7XB reported that the City of Surrey is making an effort to find a clubhouse location for SARC's use. We are exploring the potential for SARC to secure shared space that could meet both clubhouse and storage needs, co-locating at the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway facility along with Surrey Search & Rescue and SEPAR.

John suggested that a separate savings account be earmarked for Repeater and Clubhouse funds. Having a pre-determined use for available funds will also help manage balances, as needed for future grant applications. Gord Kirk VE7GRK noted that taking this step shows commitment for funds on the club's part, but isn't binding. Kelvin VA7KPH suggested that the leaders of the three organizations - Search & Rescue, SARC and SEPAR - sit down together to discuss moving this forward.

John VA7XB asked for a motion that club cash on hand over \$1,500 go to the designated savings account. The motion was made by Kjeld Frederiksen VE7GP and seconded by Johnny Rampone VE7JGR, and passed, all in favor.

TASK LIST

John VA7XB discussed a few of the important items on the task list that we do not yet have volunteers for. First is the upcoming club Christmas Party. John gave a run-down of last year's event, and the planning tasks involved. Bill Little VA7ZBL agreed to take the leadership role on this event. Jinty Reid VA7JMR had already volunteered for the assist position, and John VA7XB also agreed to assist.

A second key tasking area is Equipment Maintenance, requiring someone to look after the big equipment, primarily the towers. The work is comprised of periodic review of hydraulics, tires, paint, parts, etc., and maintaining the service log. The task remains open, and John will continue to canvas for a member willing to take charge of this area.

The third key task not yet covered is the Nominating Committee. John emphasized how important succession planning is in en-

suring good club leadership, with a reminder that the slate of nominees comes up at the June 2012 Annual General Meeting.

INDIA PROJECT

Susan Eshelman VE7IIE gave a brief report on the India Project, giving a summary of what the special event is shaping up to look like, and describing the eight station sites currently under consideration. They represent a wide range of environments and propagation challenges, from a station at the base of the Himalayas to east, west and southern tip Indian shorelines, and the central desert. Two of the settings would feature significant city noise interference, while the others are quite remote. There is now preliminary confirmation that hams on the India side have the commitment level and wherewithal to get the needed antenna equipment lined up, so pre-planning will proceed.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Gary VE7AS introduced this month's technical session presenter, John MacFarlane VE7AXU, who gave an excellent presentation entitled "A Beginners Look at PSK and the Digital Modes". John gave an overview of various digital operating modes, explaining the differences between PSK, MFSK and RTTY and others. He provided detailed information on software applications available for digital modes, demonstrating interfaces and discussing some of the technical elements of computer hardware involved in getting set-up.

John emphasized that this is a great operating environment for new hams, because operators on the digital modes tend to be very forgiving with those just learning, even in contest situations. John's full PowerPoint presentation will be available soon on the SARC website.

OTHER DISCUSSION

John VA7XB reminded those participating in the Contesting/Operator Training group that Fred Orsetti VE7IO is now organizing the next session, taking place as part of the CQWW DX SSB contest on October 28th to 30th.

Following the 50-50 draw, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held the second Wednesday of November, per the usual schedule.

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 hrs
ABC Country Restaurant at
600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

Next SARC Meeting
Second Wed. Nov 9th 1900 @ PEP
PREOC, 14275 - 96th Avenue,
Surrey,
Experts Roundtable

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 1900-2130hrs at
Rm. 214, 13569 - 76th Avenue,
Surrey. (No meeting in November)

SEPARS Training
Fourth Saturday, Nov 26th, 0830
hrs, Firehall #1, 88 & 132nd Street

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements may also be found on our web page.

Twitter
@ve7sar



SEPARS Report Kelvin Hall VA7KPH

SEPARS has purchased a mobile radio command post in the form of a 6'x12' Wells Cargo style trailer. The trailer is presently being 'lettered' courtesy of the Surrey Fire Service. Once the lettering has been completed we will undertake the task of designing the interior for a mobile radio command post. Stations designs have been suggested and we will be presenting the most functional ones to the members for final comments and suggestions. The time line is the end of December 2011 with work starting in 2012.



Thirteen SEPAR members worked with the Fleetwood Library on Saturday October 22nd to present ham radio via five stations to the kids that signed up for the event. The event was well received by all of the participants and by the newer members of SEPAR. This was a learning event for everyone involved and my congratulations and thanks to all that volunteered their time -see photos below.

We will continue with this type of workshop in 2012 as a learning event for the youth and also as a demonstration of what SEPAR is capable of doing in an emergency situation. There will be more to follow on this as we work on future agendas. Your skill sets will be welcomed to assist in making this successful and entertaining for the public. If you are new to amateur radio this is a great learning experience - do not hesitate to attend as we will assist you along the way.

SEPAR meets every third Thursday evening from 1900 - 2130 hrs at 13569 76th Street Surrey V3W 2W3 and every fourth Saturday morning at Fire hall #1 from 0900 -1200 hrs. The Thursday evening meeting in November is being replaced by a Volunteer Recognition dinner at the Surrey Arts Club in Bear Creek Park. More information will follow by separate cover.

SEPAR is always looking for new members to assist the community in times of emergency situations. SEPAR offers training in the Incident Command System (ICS), the use of radios during emergencies and the integration of SEPAR in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). If you are up to the challenge please contact me at va7kph@separs.net

Please join our Tuesday night net 1930 hrs on 147.360(+) tone 110.9



The SEPARS Youth Project scored another hit October 22nd when the Fleetwood Library hosted the hands-on workshop,





Radio-Active Susan Eshelman VE7IIE

Today we have the pleasure of introducing one of our newer members - Jinty Reid VA7JMR. Jinty got her Basic+ license last year, and quickly became active in both SARC and SEPARS. Now in her late 60's, Jinty became interested in Amateur Radio as a member of the LDS Church, which has a program aimed at getting local members trained up to work ham radio. Her participation with SEPARS is now providing that em-comm training, which Jinty enjoys along with other aspects of the hobby.

In 1973, Jinty emigrated to Canada from Scotland. Her father was a Major in the Royal Engineers, serving in both World Wars, inspiring Jinty to begin her own military career. During her four years in the WRAF (Women's Royal Air Force), Jinty came into close contact with the world of radio communication, working Air Traffic Control in Britain and Singapore.

While Air Traffic Control is primarily radar-oriented, Jinty spent much of her time on radio, talking to pilots and other controllers. Working a room filled with radios, one of her jobs was monitoring incoming messages - a skill that's certainly paying off in her current SEPARS training.

Jinty is not only a well-traveled YL, she's also had some extraordinary experiences in life. One of these took place on the radio in an Air Traffic tower, where she handled a Mayday from a pilot coming in off Newcastle. He recited his flight levels to Jinty as the plane went down.

While Jinty worked both the Radar Room and Air Traffic for the WRAF, her primary role was ATF. She was deployed to Singapore in the 1960's when Indonesian ruler Sukarno, with Communist backing, was trying to take over Malaysia. During the attempted coup, Jinty was in the Air Traffic Control tower when bombs began falling, and the next tower over was hit.



Jinty Reid VA7JMR

Not surprisingly, Jinty's had some Morse code training, although her work was with flashing lights rather than keys. She's since forgotten much of it, but hopes to eventually refresh her skills by pursuing CW as a ham.

After Military duty, Jinty started a family and career as a social worker (medical), her profession for 16 years both in the UK and in Canada. Avoiding the 'all work and no play' trap, Jinty found time to travel extensively, to Paris, Malta, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Czechoslovakia. Traveling to Latin America as often as possible to work on her Spanish, she claims not to be fluent -- a modest self-appraisal for someone who's the Director and teacher for the Church ESL program in Guildford.

With four adult children and grandchildren, Jinty now enjoys living in Surrey with her two dogs... one a new puppy. Her current station set-up is comprised of a mobile/base radio on a 2-band antenna, from which she now handles Net Control for SEPARS on 'fifth Tuesdays'. Exploring her options for antenna upgrades in a co-op living environment, and wanting to have the bases covered for emergency comm. support, she'll soon add a mobile hand-held for the car and battery backup for her base station.

While not much attracted to the highly technical aspects of Amateur Radio (particularly all those incomprehensible acronyms), what most inspires VA7JMR is the ability to get on the radio and talk to people in distant places.

That, and maintaining the equipment and skills to serve the local community in the event of disaster. While not a regularly scheduled part of her emergency preparedness plan, Jinty does have some personal disaster experience, having been just north of Patagonia, Chile when a volcano that had been dormant for 4,000 years erupted.

Given her perennial wanderlust, Jinty also plans to get active with IRLP, so she can talk with people around the globe, even without a robust antenna system. Turkey and Ecuador are targeted as future destinations, although retirement may have it that she gets there by radio before she does by plane.

"Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to receive."
- Otto Watt Sept. 5 1925

Round-Table

Your Opportunity to 'Ask The Experts'

We were all new hams once, and even as we gain more experience, questions come up that we do not have the answer to. New hams are often reluctant to ask questions for a variety of reasons but... fear not, we have an ideal opportunity to ask questions as the next SARC meeting's 'Hour of Power' will host a panel of experts.

An "Expert Roundtable" of Veteran Hams will attempt to answer any and all of your Amateur Radio related questions. No question will go unanswered! No question too simple or too complex... see if you can stump a panelist! So come prepared for an hour of discovery and enlightenment! Restrictions apply... we may not be able to answer your question if we don't have an internet connection and there is a limit of 12 questions per person. You may also submit your questions in advance via email to Gary VE7AS (ve7as@rac.ca). Come to the next meeting for details... hey, we only have an hour!

Just to get you thinking about what might be covered, and what you may want to get more information on, here are some of the topics that your panel will be prepared to discuss.

- Equipment purchase choices - Mobile, hand-held or base, and vendor knowledge
- Antennas—Best bang for the buck, stealth for condo residents, etc.
- Station set-up
- Repeater, IRLP, Echolink and D-Star set-up and operation
- DX operation—How do I get started?
- HF and/or VHF Propagation and MUF know-how.
- Working contests—From home stations to remote locations and DX-peditions
- Morse Code
- Emergency communications, traffic handling and the NTS
- Nets and Net operation
- Satellite operation—Yes, you can work sats with just a hand-held
- PSK Software and digital operation
- RV/Off-road—Travelling with Ham Radio and HF mobile operation
- Sailing off shore with Ham Radio

- Homebrew projects—Where to get kits
- QSL Cards, awards and Ham "wallpaper"
- Useful Internet sites for hams
- RAC & ARRL Information—What are the benefits of joining

An excellent website for new ham information is www.eham.net/newham/ and its accompanying forum www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php, and don't forget the excellent HamNation weekly podcast twit.tv/hn an audio/video introduction to a variety of Amateur Radio topics.



Next SARC Meeting November 9

The next meeting of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club will feature a round-table covering a variety of topics of interest to beginners and experts alike. Bring your questions and don't hesitate to ask them!

CQ WW DX Contest 2011 SSB: October 29 - 30

The CQ world-wide DX contest is for amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many zones and countries as possible using single-sideband phone (voice).

Early in the fall of this year SARC and SEPAR teamed up to offer contest training. The first event was the CQWW RTTY contest in September hosted by SARC President John Brodie, VA7XB, involving a small number of would be testers and by all accounts it was declared a success.

The 2011 CQWWDX SSB contest took place October 29-30. This was a 48 hour event and 12 members operated shifts covering the full 48 hrs. The venue for this contest training was the QTH of Fred, VE7IO, where we operated two simultaneous stations as a Multi Operator - Multi Transmitter entry.

All stations were networked with Athena tracking software running at all times. As a Multi-Multi entry we were able to use DX spotting for real time propagation information which provided us with an opportunity to keep the radios active.

Contesting not only improves your radio operating skills but also improves your radio emergency communications skills. Ongoing contest training will undoubtedly improve our Field Day score and provide all operators with the tools to have more fun.

Plans are to operate future contests, possibly one each month, and expand the operator training base so if you are a SARC or SEPAR member and interested in improving your on the air skills consider signing up for a spot on the upcoming contest rosters.

~ Jim VE7FO and Fred VE7IO



"What a blast! I'd like to thank Jim Smith VE7FO for conducting a terrific pre-operating briefing that got me up and running. He is really good at building confidence and transferring skills and knowledge. Within minutes I was working Gambia, Ascension Island, and eventually China, Mongolia, Niue and many, many other exotic DX!! I can't even begin to describe the pleasure that brings. And Jim was patient throughout all of the mistakes I made - cheerfully he put me back on the rails each time.

I'd like to thank Fred Orsetti VE7IO for making his amazing station available to

rookies - and having the confidence that we would not break something! His friendship has been an inspiration for me since the days when I visited him before I even owned equipment - and I always learn something every time we have a conversation.

And I'd like to thank John Brodie VA7XB whose leadership in the club has seen this contest training move from a vague idea to a working program benefitting individual member hams! Thanks John for persevering through all the obstacles to make this program happen. And thanks for making your station available in the RTTY contest!

I recommend this training program to any member of this Group who may have doubts - the participation is worth its weight in gold - and definitely NOT available elsewhere. Jump in and participate no matter how scary it seems from the outside - you will emerge as a happier, more confident, more skilled and knowledgeable person (and ham)!"

Next month's Communicator will have a full report from Fred and Jim.

On this month's 'Communicator' cover: Jim VE7FO and John VE7AXU looking smug after working Gambia on 3 bands during the CQ WW DX Contest.

A Successful Contest

DX conditions this good have not been seen in recent memory. The 10 and 15 metre bands were particularly hot, with stations from every continent able to be heard and worked right into the evening hours. SARC participants were Don VA7GL, Al VA7BIT, John VE7AXU, Anton VE7SSD, Scott VE7HA, Jay VE7OFH, Brett VA7BWG plus visitors Al VE7WJ and Walter VE7SM. Trainers, Fred VE7IO and Jim VE7FO were active throughout the weekend standing by the newbies with helpful advice. Thanks go out to Fred for hosting the event and putting up with intruders into his well-organized and superbly-equipped station. A good percentage of the group was newbies or moderately proficient members who were able to gain confidence by their success in making world-wide contacts in a competitive environment. Listen to what John VE7AXU had to say about his experience...



Application Notes Gary Skett VE7AS



One score and twelve years ago, before the common cell phone, our Ham brethren used to handle a lot of “traffic” for the rank and file. Traffic in this context meant messages... like the telegram, but using radio - the radiogram.

| THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|--|------------|----------------|-----|--|
| VIA AMATEUR RADIO | | | | | | | | | |
| NUMBER 1 | PRECEDENCE R | HI G | STATION OF ORIGIN K4IOW | CHECK 12 | PLACE OF ORIGIN CARY NC | TIME FILED | DATE DEC 20 | | |
| TO JOHN Q PUBLIC 1234 MAPLE AVE ANYTOWN NC 27000 | | | | | THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY AND STATE | | | | |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER 919 555 1234 | | | | | | | | | |
| ARRIVE | | 7PM | | DEC | | 24 | | X | |
| LOOKING | | FORWARD | | TO | | SEEING | | YOU | |
| X | | LOVE | | | | | | | |
| BETTY M PUBLIC | | | | | | | | | |
| REC'D | FROM | DATE | TIME | SENT | TO | DATE | TIME | | |

Form: Copyright 1995, American Radio Relay League. Used with permission

For those younguns, a tel-e-gram (*pronounced; teli-gram*) noun, is a message transmitted by telegraph in the railway heydays and later by Morse code. Information given in spoken or written form : communication, message, word, report, news, statement, bulletin, dispatch, document, note, broadcast, telegram, wire, cablegram, cable, radio message, telephone call. All totally replaced today by texting and e-mails... well almost.

Today, over 100 years old, the ARRL Radiogram is still in use and almost in its original form too. Historically, part of a Ham Operator's training included the skill of handling message traffic for Hams and the general public. Some of you might remember when VE7PNE was still a main attraction and the public was still thrilled and amazed when we filled out a radiogram and pasted a message from the PNE Station to our counterpart back east at the CNE, delivered the message and received a reply in short order.

Today, hardly anyone knows what a Ham Operator is, let alone the services we provide... Today we have to rely on a major disaster to show off our message handling skills...and then only if all other means have failed and some wide-eyed reporter looking for a special interest piece “discovers” these strange people calling themselves “Hams” and oh! They can send a message to family and friends.... and it's for FREE!! O-M-G !!

Nevertheless, we still have National Traffic Nets where Hams from mostly around North America keep the skill alive by working radio networks “Nets” to pass back and forth messages. This service is always free of charge, non-commercial, non-military, non-business in nature and simply to get a message from one person or family to another. Yes in an emergency the NTS is pressed into service for more important subjects, but it's always there to get messages across the world when the military, government, or relief agencies can't or won't.

So... where do you get the forms? Buy pads from the ARRL or now-a-days, simply download the blank template, fill it in and print it...just Google the ARRL Radiogram and you'll fill and hour exploring your hits...

Actually, as long as you keep the required format [see above in the yellow/green form] You can make your own Radiogram. SEPARS does, as do many other clubs and emergency groups.

To fulfill the historical requirements of a “Real Ham”, let's take a quick lesson in how to fill out a Radiogram.

Let's start from the top...

NUMBER

The message number is selected by the station originating the message and it must be on all messages. It stays with the message all the way to the point of delivery. The delivering station

may need to reply to the station of origin and refer to this number.

Use number digits only, no letters, leading zeros, or dashes. Numbers are usually begun with 1 at

the start of a year or month at the pleasure of the originating station.

PRECEDENCE

EMERGENCY (Spelled out on form.):

Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief of stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be very rare. On CW/RTTY, this designation will always be spelled out. When in doubt, do not use it.

Note: Emergency is always spelled out in the preamble. Means other than Amateur Radio should be included in the delivery options. EMERGENCY messages have immediate urgency. They should take priority over any other activity and should be passed by the best means available with the cooperation of all stations.

PRIORITY (P):

Use abbreviation P on CW/RTTY. This classification is for a) important messages having a specific time limit, b) official messages not covered in the emergency category, c) press dispatches and emergency related traffic not of the utmost urgency, d) notice of death or injury in a disaster area, personal or official.

WELFARE (W):

This classification, abbreviated as W on CW/RTTY, refers to either an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area or an advisory from the disaster area that indicates all is well. Welfare traffic is handled only after all emergency and priority traffic is cleared. The Red Cross equivalent to an incoming Welfare message is DWI (Disaster Welfare Inquiry).

ROUTINE (R):

Most traffic in normal times will bear this designation. In disaster situations, traffic labelled Routine (R on CW/RTTY) should be handled last, or not at all when circuits are busy with higher precedence traffic.

Notes: These precedence's are not meant to prohibit handling lower level traffic until all higher levels are passed. Common sense dictates handling higher precedence traffic before lower when possible and/or outlets are available.

EXERCISE MESSAGES

Messages in the ARRL format passed for test and exercise purposes may be given a precedence preceded by the word "TEST", as in "TEST R", "TEST P", "TEST W", or "TEST EMERGENCY". It is customary to indicate within the text of such messages the words "TEST MESSAGE", or "EXERCISE". Using "EXERCISE" as the first and last groups of the text helps alert listeners to the nature of the content to avoid undue alarm. In some exercises, the life of the message may be terminated when the exercise period is terminated, i.e., any such messages are not handled after the exercise. Consult with the SEPARS/PERS/ARES/RACES/NTS group conducting the test to determine if such messages should be filed, handled and delivered afterwards to permit a full evaluation of the exercise.

HX - Handling Instructions

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS (ARRL, FSD-218 2/91)

HXA__ (Followed by number.) Collect landline delivery authorized by addressee within [...] miles, (If no number, authorization is unlimited.).

HXB__ (Followed by number.) Cancel message if not delivered within [...] hours of filing time; service originating station.

HXC Report date and time of delivery of the message back to the originating station.

HXD Report to originating station the identity of station from which received, plus date and time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, or if delivered, report date and time and method of delivery (by service message).

HXE Delivering station get reply from addressee, originate message back.

HXF__ (Followed by a number.) Hold delivery until [date].

HXG Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll call or other expense

involved, cancel message and send service message back to originating station.

- Compliance with these instructions is mandatory. Reports may be considered service messages.
- MORE THAN ONE HX CODE MAY BE USED. If more than one code is used, they may be combined provided no numbers are to be inserted, otherwise the HX should be repeated, thus: NR 27 R HXAC W1AW..., or, NR 27 R HXA50 HXC W1AW...(etc.).

STATION OF ORIGIN

The call sign of the amateur station originating (creating) the message for first introduction into the amateur system is the station of origin and must be on all messages. This call sign must stay with the message to the point of delivery. Service messages go to this station.

CHECK - This is the number of words or word "groups" in the text of the message. You will notice there are 20 underlined "spaces" in the body of the radiogram, one for each word. Depending on who you are handling traffic for, they may count words placed in each space or "X" in a radiogram, as in an old telegram meant "STOP" or a period. That is usually counted as a "word".

PLACE OF ORIGIN

The PLACE OF ORIGIN is the location (City and Province or State) of the party for whom the message is created, not necessarily the location of the station of origin. For example, if the station of origin is in Vancouver creating a message for a person in Victoria, the PLACE OF ORIGIN would be Victoria in the preamble. The PLACE OF ORIGIN relates to the signature and should make sense to the addressee as the place the signing party is located. It must stay with the message to the point of delivery.

ARL FOUR Only slight property damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.

ARL FIVE Am moving to new location. Send no further mail or communication. Will inform you of new address when relocated.

*ARL is usually placed in the preamble to indicate you are using ARRL Numbered messaging. A text book is available to purchase for this whole subject.

Oh, and you generally don't use numbers in text, they are spelled out ; SIX for 6 as an example. Gets to be a challenge if you are needing to use large multi-digit numbers in a routine message.

But like texting or tweeting or twitting...or whatever the kids do these days....you have learn to say what you want in 20 words or less. "Q" codes are frowned upon... a sign of a LID or rookie.

If you want to learn formal traffic handing, attend a SEPARS message meeting, listen to traffic nets or buy an ARRL book on the subject. I'm sure you can Google around too to get some information, but a lot of what you find on the Internet isn't current or even accurate for today's requirements... better talk to the club experts.... like Fred VE7IO, or John VE7TI or the Yoda master himself Jim VE7HUR.

2011 Field Day Scores

ARRL reports that SARC and LARA, operating as a team under the callsign VE7LSY, came third in Canada and second in BC in category 3A (3 HF stations, portable power).

SARC's score of 3720 with 779 contacts was second in BC only to VE7SCC (Coquitlam ARESS) which scored 4648 points with 1374 contacts. VE7SCC was also the Canadian 3A winner.

By contrast, in the US, the 3A high score was W9CA with 23,014 points and 6374 contacts.

From these results, we can certainly form a clear idea of the nature of our challenge for next year. Here are the BC and Canadian 3A scores.

| # | Call | Score | Cat | QSOs | Power Mult | GOTA Call | Section | Participants | Club |
|---|--------|-------|-----|-------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | VE7SCC | 4,648 | 3A | 1,374 | 2 | | BC | 40 | Coquitlam AR & Em Serv Soc |
| 2 | VE7LSY | 3,720 | 3A | 779 | 2 | VA7SRY | BC | 30 | Surrey/Langley Clubs |
| 3 | VE7VCC | 2,328 | 3A | 548 | 2 | | BC | 10 | West Coast ARA |
| 4 | VE7OGO | 1,586 | 3A | 398 | 2 | | BC | 9 | |
| 5 | VE7VCT | 1,540 | 3A | 161 | 2 | VA7VCT | BC | 40 | VECTOR |
| 6 | VE7CMR | 752 | 3A | 181 | 2 | VE7CML | BC | 25 | Maple Ridge ARC |

| # | Call | Score | Category | QSOs | Power Mult | GOTA Call | Section | Participants | Club |
|----|--------|-------|----------|-------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | VE7SCC | 4,648 | 3A | 1,374 | 2 | | BC | 40 | Coquitlam AR & Em Serv Soc |
| 2 | VE3RL | 3,976 | 3A | 1,287 | 2 | | ON | 18 | Quinte ARC/ Prince Edward RC |
| 3 | VE7LSY | 3,720 | 3A | 779 | 2 | VA7SRY | BC | 30 | Surrey/Langley Clubs |
| 4 | VE3SAR | 3,452 | 3A | 905 | 2 | | ON | 24 | |
| 5 | VE3RAM | 3,064 | 3A | 820 | 2 | VA3CUA | ON | 25 | Ottawa Valley Mobile RC |
| 6 | VE7VCC | 2,328 | 3A | 548 | 2 | | BC | 10 | West Coast ARA |
| 7 | VE5NN | 2,310 | 3A | 579 | 2 | | SK | 14 | Regina ARA |
| 8 | VE9ND | 2,040 | 3A | 345 | 2 | | MAR | 15 | Fredericton Arc |
| 9 | VE3TNC | 2,010 | 3A | 453 | 2 | | ON | 12 | Toronto ARC |
| 10 | VE2CSP | 1,754 | 3A | 374 | 2 | | QC | 35 | Assn Radio Amateur de Portneuf |
| 11 | VE2CRO | 1,692 | 3A | 562 | 2 | | QC | 44 | Club Radio Amateur Outaouais |
| 12 | VE4BB | 1,660 | 3A | 405 | 2 | | MB | 111 | Winnipeg ARC |
| 13 | VE7OGO | 1,586 | 3A | 398 | 2 | | BC | 9 | |
| 14 | VE7VCT | 1,540 | 3A | 161 | 2 | VA7VCT | BC | 40 | VECTOR |
| 15 | VO1AA | 1,496 | 3A | 112 | 2 | | NL | 25 | |
| 16 | VE3CRC | 1,300 | 3A | 164 | 2 | | ON | 20 | Chatham-Kent ARC |
| 17 | VE3NAR | 1,088 | 3A | 519 | 2 | | ON | 7 | Nortown ARC |
| 18 | VE7CMR | 752 | 3A | 181 | 2 | VE7CML | BC | 25 | Maple Ridge ARC |

'Net' Working Internet Resources for Hams

Something a bit different this month. Many of you older hams out there know the Heath Company but many younger ones do not, so this month a trip to the past. The Heath Company was originally founded as an aircraft company in 1912 by Edward Bayard Heath with the purchase of Bates Aeroplane Co, soon renamed to the E.B. Heath Aerial Vehicle Co. Starting in 1926 it sold a light aircraft, the Heath Parasol, in kit form. Heath died during a 1931 test flight. The company reorganized and moved from Chicago to Niles, Michigan. In 1935, Howard Anthony purchased the then-bankrupt Heath Company, and focused on selling accessories for small aircraft. After World War II, Anthony decided that entering the electronics industry was a good idea, and bought a large stock of surplus wartime electronic parts with the intention of building kits with them. In 1947, Heath introduced its first electronic kit, the O1 oscilloscope that sold for US\$50. The price was unbeatable at the time, and the oscilloscope went on to be a huge seller.

After the success of the oscilloscope kit, Heath went on to produce dozens of Heathkit products. Heathkits were influential in shaping two generations of electronic hobbyists. The Heathkit sales premise was that by investing the time to assemble a Heathkit, the purchaser could build something comparable to a factory-built product at a very significantly lower cash cost. During those decades, the premise was basically valid. Commercial factory-built electronic products were constructed from generic, discrete components such as vacuum tubes, tube sockets, capacitors, inductors and resistors, and essentially hand-wired and assembled. The home kit-builder could perform the same assembly tasks himself, and, if careful, to at least the same standard of quality. In the case of their most expensive product, the Thomas electronic organ, building the Heathkit version represented very substantial savings.

One category in which Heathkit enjoyed great popularity was amateur radio. Ham radio operators had frequently been forced to build their equipment from scratch before the advent of kits, with the difficulty of procuring all the parts separately and relying on often-experimental designs. Kits brought the convenience of all parts being supplied together and the assurance of a predictable finished product; many Heathkit models became well-known in the ham radio community.

Building a Heathkit required time, patience, and the ability to follow directions; given these, the risk of failure was small. Heathkits were absolutely complete except for tools. The instruction books were regarded as the best in the kit industry, being models of clarity, beginning with basic lessons on soldering technique, and proceeding with explicit directions, illustrated with line drawings, and a box to tick as each task was accomplished

New VFO KIT

Heathkit



MODEL VF-1
\$1950
Ship. Wt. 7 lbs.

Here is the new Heathkit VFO you have been waiting for. The perfect companion to the Heathkit Model AT-1 Transmitter. It has sufficient output to drive any multi-stage transmitter of modern design. A terrific combination of outstanding features at a low kit price. Good mechanical and electrical design insures operating stability. Coils are wound on heavy duty ceramic forms, using Lita or double cellulose wire coated with polystyrene cement. Variable capacitor is of differential type construction, especially designed for maximum bandspread and features ceramic insulation and double bearings.

This kit is furnished with a carefully precalibrated dial which provides well over two feet of calibrated dial scale. Smooth acting vernier reduction drive insures easy tuning and zero beating. Power requirements 6.3 volts AC at .45 amperes and 250 volts DC at 15 mills. Just plug it into the power receptacle provided on the rear of the AT-1 Transmitter Kit. The VFO coaxial output cable terminates in plastic plug to fit standard 1/4" crystal holder. Construction is simple and wiring is easy.

- Smooth acting illuminated and precalibrated dial.
- 6AU6 electron coupled Clapp oscillator and OA2 voltage regulator.
- 10 Volt average output on fundamental frequencies.
- 7 Band calibration, 160 through 10 meters, from 3 basic oscillator frequencies.

- Open layout—easy to build—simplified wiring.
- Smooth acting illuminated dial drive.
- Clean appearance—rugged construction—accessible calibrating adjustments.
- Ceramic coil forms—differential construction.
- Copper plated chassis—careful shielding.

Heathkit AMATEUR TRANSMITTER KIT

Heathkit



MODEL AT-1
\$2950
Ship. Wt. 16 lbs.

Here is a major Heathkit addition to the Ham radio field, the AT-1 Transmitter Kit, incorporating many desirable design features at the lowest possible dollar-per-watts price. Panel mounted crystal socket, stand-by switch, key click filter, A.C. line filtering, good shielding, etc. VFO or crystal excitation—up to 35 watts input. Built-in power supply provides 425 volts at 100 MA. Amazingly low kit price includes all circuit components, tubes, cabinet, punched chassis, and detailed construction manual.

SPECIFICATIONS:
Range 80, 40, 20, 15, 11, 10 meters.
6AG7 Oscillator-multiplier.
6X4 Amplifier-doubler.
5Y4 Rectifier.
105-125 Volt A.C. 50-60 cycles 100 watts. Size 8 1/2 inch high x 13 1/2 inch wide x 7 inch deep.

Crystal or VFO excitation.

Prewound coils—metered operation.

52 ohm coaxial output.

Built-in power supply.

Single knob band switching.

Rugged, clean construction.

Heathkit COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER KIT

Heathkit



MODEL AR-2
\$2550
Ship. Wt. 12 lbs.

A new Heathkit AR-2 communications receiver. The ideal companion piece for the AT-1 Transmitter. Electrical bandspread scale for tuning and logging convenience. High gain miniature tubes and RF transformers for high sensitivity and good signal to noise ratio. Construct your own Communications Receiver at a very substantial saving. Supplied with all tubes, punched and formed sheet metal parts, speaker, circuit components, and detailed step-by-step construction manual.

SPECIFICATIONS:
Range.....535 Kc to 35 Mc
12BE6 Mixer-oscillator
12RA6 I. F. Amplifier
12AV6 Detector-AVCO-audio
12BA6 B. F. O. oscillator
5Y3GT Beam power output
5Y3GT Rectifier
105-125 volts A.C. 50-60 cycles, 45 watts.

Four band operation 535 to 35 Mc.

Stable BFO oscillator circuit.

RF gain control with AVC or MFC.

5 1/2 inch PM Speaker-Headphone Jack.

Noise limiter—standby switch.

Electrical bandspread and scale.

Six tube transformer operation.

HEATH COMPANY
BENTON HARBOR 9, MICHIGAN

CABINET:
Proxylon impregnated fabric covered plywood cabinet. Ship. weight 6 lbs. Number 91-10, \$4.50.

By the 1980s, the continuation of the integration trend, and mass production of electronics (perhaps especially computers overseas and in plug in modules) eroded the basic Heathkit business model. Assembling a kit might still be fun, but it could no longer save much money. On March 30, 1992, the end came. Heath announced that it was closing out its kits and leaving the business after 45 years, an event important enough to a number of people that it was reported on the front page of the New York Times. In August 2011, Heathkit announced on their web site that they would be resurrecting hobby kits starting with the Garage Parking Assistant kit in late September and soon after the Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit. These will be followed by amateur radio kits by the end of 2011. Everything old is new again.

QRM ...from the Editor's desk



*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
Something to sell or something you are looking for?
Email it to ve7ti@separs.net for inclusion in this column.*

Kjeld VE7GP sent along a couple of photos of a rather unique radial system he saw a ham use at a campground south of the border. In small spaces or for emergency communications, vertical antennas are very attractive. They can generate low takeoff angles for radiation, which means long skip distances. These low radiation angles are just what are need for communicating DX.

With the exception of the vertical dipole, a dipole on its end, vertical antennas are only "half there". The other half is a "reflection" in the ground. They rely on return ground currents and use the ground as part of the antenna system. As a result, if the ground sucks, the antenna will also. It may load up nicely, but so does a dummy load. This applies to all end fed verticals, whether they are 1/4 wave, 3/8 wave, 5/8 wave, 3/4 wave or 1/2 wave tall, or even a random height. They all need a good RF ground underneath them to function well. The answer is to install radials fanned from the base of the antenna.

So, it looks like this fellow has a unique approach to the problem. These are a series of common steel tape measures that can be pulled away from the base to the required distance.

The only question...
are they Imperial or
Metric?



D-Star Programming

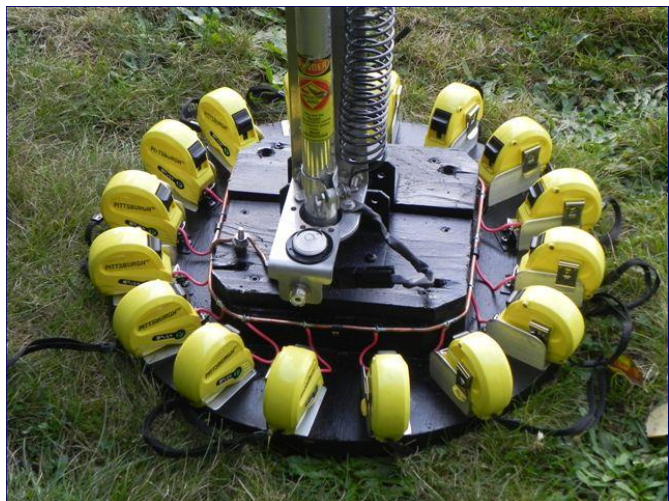
Found a great D-STAR programming site called [D-STAR Calculator](http://www.d-star-calculator.com). This fellow has done a great job to take the mystery out of programming your D-STAR Transceiver. While I still recommend using software programming tools to ease the pain (check out the free [CHIRP](http://www.chirp.org)), the D-STAR Calculator provides a step-by-step process for getting the correct linking, locally or for sites around the globe. They also have a host of other information including a newsletter, technical tips and reviews.

Free On-line Electronics Course

Electronics has become part of our everyday lives. We watch TV, listen to our music systems, call our friends on our mobile phones, and use our computers for entertainment and education. In fact, when we fly, sail, drive, or when we are ill, our lives may depend on electronics. Despite this, we are usually happy to take it for granted that extremely complex electronic systems will carry on working reliably and efficiently - rarely do we ever consider the hundreds and thousands of tiny components that actually make these systems work!

This course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive and up-to-date introduction to the world of electronics. It has been designed to help you understand the behaviour of electronic components and the circuits into which they are connected. The course will help you to read circuit diagrams and recognize electronic components in real circuits. In other words, it will show you what electronic components do and how they work.

<http://www.matrixmultimedia.com/courses/ecc/index.php>

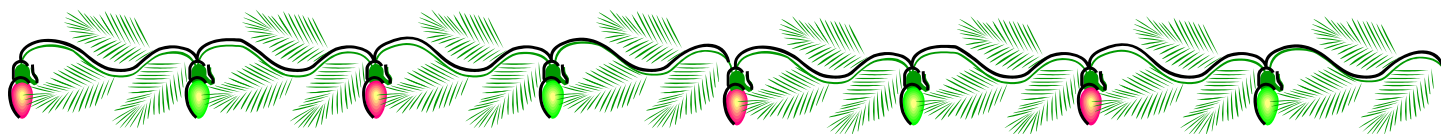


SARC Snapshot Fall Basic Ham Class

SARC's fall Basic ham class is well underway under Gary VE7AS's tutelage. Here are a few snapshots of the eager hams-to-be.



There will be a winter ham class starting on Jan. 19th, followed by Newbie Seminar. We are now taking registrations.



SARC Christmas Party

The leaves are falling, they are pushing snow tires... what else? Yes, you guessed it. We are having our annual **SARC Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 10th at the ABC Restaurant #600 7380 King George Blvd Surrey.

We will gather around 11am with our ladies or blokes for a social get together then Andre will invite us to enjoy his famous roast beef and all the trimmings buffet. Afterward there will be a review of the year and we will announce our Amateur of the Year award.

Of course there will be prizes. So make plans now The cost is the usual \$20.00 a head. The room is restricted to 40 and as we expect several prominent firemen to attend they may be counting heads! Please eMail Jinty to reserve your spot (jinty.reid@gmail.com)

In the meantime, we need to have your input regarding "SARC Amateur of the Year" awards, which will be presented at the party. Please send John Brodie (va7xb@separs.net) your nomination(s) - in confidence - of an outstanding SARC member or members, giving reasons for your choice.

News You Can Lose The Lighter Side

Not a blonde joke...

A light-haired lady motorist was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?"

"Sure," she answered, "do you need a lift?"

"Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They're a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble."

"I'd be happy to," said she. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of her car and carefully strapped into their seat belts, and off they went.

Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified! There was the lady, walking down the street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of a big crowd. With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to her. "What the heck are you doing here?" he demanded, "I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo."

"I know you did," she said, "but we had money left over so now we're going to Sea World!"



Yet another mobile installation... Probably not a recommended layout



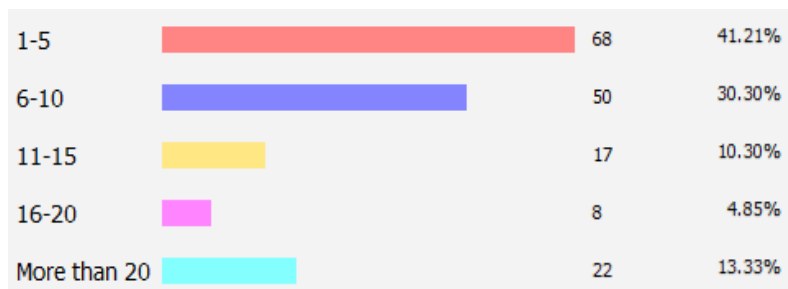
If you can't afford a doctor, go to an airport - you'll get a free x-ray and a breast exam, and; if you mention Al Qaeda, you'll get a free colonoscopy.



This is the other kind of 'pile-up'

How Many radios Do You Own?

Sample size 165





QRT John Brodie VA7XB

An Overview as We Move into the Fall...

Things are falling nicely into place for SARC's program between now and end of the 2011/2012 season. Let's review: a fully-subscribed basic ham class is in progress under Gary VE7AS' capable leadership, the website modernization recently completed by Susan VE7IIE and Hiu VE7YXG is working well, and the Communicator has benefitted from the "new look" given it by John VE7TI's creative talents. We now have team leaders in place to organize both the annual RDF Fox Hunt and Field Day. The operator skills training program has been launched under the expert guidance of Jim VE7FO and Fred VE7IO - an RTTY contest is behind us, with the SSB contest underway as the Communicator goes to press this weekend. Planning of the India Project by Susan VE7IIE is taking shape. Gary VE7AS has taken on the job of arranging monthly meeting programs for the year, and has an excellent slate of speakers and presentations lined up. Bill VA7ZBL has got his planning team in full motion for the Christmas Party on Dec 10th. We have been advised by our benefactors at Surrey Fire Service that an agreement for the new repeater location is close to being signed. Furthermore, the City of Surrey is actively working to find us a central venue where we can store our big equipment, hold meetings and even install a club station. Susan VE7IIE has recently initiated "strategic planning" with the goal of defining the Club's vision and objectives - whereas we lurched along from month to month with no clear guiding principles when our membership was smaller, Susan has correctly identified a need for defining what we want to be as an organization now that our membership has passed the milestone of 100. So many things accomplished or underway by a willing and talented membership...it is very gratifying and makes the President's job a pleasure! My thanks to all those who are making such a positive contribution.

Task List

Although most jobs are filled, we do still need a volunteer to take responsibility for maintaining club equipment (mainly two towers on trailers). This calls for a hands-on approach by someone that enjoys working with mechanical equipment, believes in the value of preventive maintenance and has some relevant experience that would enable problems to be recognized before they become serious. We also need a volunteer to start identifying nominations for our next election of officers at the June AGM. This is a job that requires advance planning

with an eye to the often unachievable goal of seamless succession. If we could fill these two slots by Christmas, we could go into the new Year confident that the program is capable of delivering the essential elements to our members.

SARC's "Amateur of the Year" Award

The practice of honoring particularly noteworthy SARC members was started by past President Mike Plant VE7AS in 2007. The tradition has been continued to recognize those members who have provided extraordinary service to either the Surrey Club or Amateur Radio in general, or both. Final selection is now made by the President from a confidential list of candidates nominated by members in the Fall, prior to the annual Christmas Party, at which time the announcement is made. In some years, more than one award is given. Recipients of the awards to date are noted below:

2010: Hiu VE7YXG, Fred VE7IO and Bill VE7XS

2009: Gary VE7AS, Ken VE7BC, Kjeld VE7GP

2008: John VA7XB

2007: Fred VE7IO, Anton VE7SSD

So that this will truly be "members' choice", please let me have your nominations (in confidence), including a few words to support your nomination, by November 30th to va7xb@rac.ca

An Opportunity?

Hans Sparreboom has a fairly large collection of military and consumer type radios. For example, he has Hammarlunds (i.e SP-600 and others), Hallicrafters as well as some test equipment. He is interested in "giving" many of these away (yes, you read that correctly!) in exchange for having 4 or 5 of his favourites repaired and brought up to "snuff" so to speak.

He lives in Nakusp, so the distance wouldn't be that great of a problem. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let him know. He can then send a list of the radios he has available and the ones that he would like to have repaired.

Hans looks forward to your response, contact him at:

hsparre@telusplanet.net